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Getting on track with phys ed

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Grade 7/8 students snowshoe up an incline on Friday, Jan. 29 in Haliburton. The students take to the woods with snowshoes most afternoons, as part of their physical education. Conditions in the Highlands this winter have been ideal for outdoor sports such as Nordic skiing and snowshowing. See more photos on page 13. /DARREN LUM Staff

COVID–19 vaccine administered at Extendicare Haliburton, second batch delayed

MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

42 residents of Extendicare Haliburton were among the first county residents to be vaccinated on Friday [Jan. 29].

There were plenty of smiling faces on show as some of the community's most senior residents received their shot, just days after the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit [HKPRDHU] announced it had gotten its first shipment of the Moderna vaccine. A total of 700 doses were delivered to Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay for storage.

Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health for the local unit, said staff had been working alongside senior administration from the region's many long-term care homes to come up with a plan to vaccinate vulnerable residents. Seniors living at Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon, Hope Street Terrace in Port Hope and Maplewood Long-Term Care Home in Brighton were among the first group to be vaccinated.

There are approximately 1,600 residents living in long-term care homes across the region, and a further 2,000 staff working at those sites currently waiting to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

According to HKPRDHU spokesperson Chandra Tremblay there are 132 long-term care residents in Haliburton County spread across three sites – Extendicare, Highland Wood in Haliburton

see SECOND page 8

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COVID–19 outbreak declared at Hyland Crest

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

A COVID-19 outbreak was declared at Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden on Sunday [Jan. 31]. Two essential caregivers have tested positive for the virus. The outbreak is the first for a local long-term care home since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit first posted about the outbreak on their community outbreaks webpage on Jan. 31, and a press release from Haliburton Highlands Health Services was distributed the next morning.

"HHHS has been vigorously working with public health authorities in managing the situation and identifying anyone who may have been exposed to prevent further spread," reads the release.

According to the province's webpage on policy long-term care homes must follow, "a caregiver is a type of essential visitor who is designated by the resident and/or their substitute decision-maker and is visiting to provide direct care to the resident (e.g. supporting feeding, mobility, personal hygiene, cognitive stimulation, communication, meaningful connection, relational continuity and assistance in decision-making)." They must be at least 18 years of age, and a maximum of two caregivers may be designated per resident at a time. The province's webpage states the person might be, for example, a family member who provides meaningful connection, a privately hired caregiver, paid companions and translators.

In November, Carolyn Plummer, HHHS president and CEO said in a hospital services board meeting that the increase in COVID-19 infections in long-term care homes provincially at that time was concerning, and that HHHS had been maintaining strict vigilance with precautions put in place to keep people as safe as possible.

"We continue to have ongoing concerns about the rising number of long-term care home outbreaks in the province, and the possibility of an outbreak locally," said Plummer in her report last year. "If an outbreak was to occur, our rural location puts us in a vulnerable position due to our limited staff availability and limited external resources upon which to rely for help."

She said then that the outbreaks around the province had prompted HHHS to "tighten up" visiting policies, and put additional restrictions in place due to the challenge of not having easy access to back-up staffing if needed. At that time, she said essential caregivers were still permitted to enter the home, but were restricted to visits with their loved one inside of the resident's room and not in the common areas.

Essential caregivers are required to be tested weekly at this point, a determination made by public health based on the colour-coded zone of the public health region, an HHHS spokesperson told the *Echo*.

"As per directives provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, stringent Infection Prevention and Control [IPAC] measures have been implemented in both HHHS long-term care homes since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic," reads yesterday's HHHS release. "These measures include but are not limited to: ensuring staff work in only one LTC facility; actively screening all staff and essential visitors upon entry to the buildings; conducting regular surveillance testing of all LTC staff and residents; limiting visitors to only those deemed as 'essential caregivers' who must undergo regular COVID-19 testing; ensuring adequate supply and proper use of personal protective equipment at all times."

Outbreak protocols have also been implemented to minimize potential spread at Hyland Crest, according to the HHHS release. The measures include the immediate testing of all residents and potentially exposed individuals; isolating any residents experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms; limiting admissions, readmissions, discharges or transfers at this time.

"We have been preparing for this possibility, knowing that even with the most rigorous infection prevention and control measures in place, COVID-19 is a very contagious virus," said Plummer. "HHHS remains committed to providing the best care and support possible for residents and their families. We are grateful to our staff and management team for their extraordinary and continued vigilance in the implementation of protective measures and for the guidance and assistance we have received from our local public health unit and health service provider partners." HHHS told the Echo that residents were tested on Jan. 31 and the results are pending.

"Staff are regularly scheduled on Tuesdays for testing – last Tuesday's test yielded no positive results – and they will be tested this Tuesday as per the requirement," a spokesperson told the *Echo*.

HHHS manages two long-term care facilities in Haliburton County: Hyland Crest, and Highland Wood, which is located in Haliburton. Last Friday, 42 residents and 10 staff members at Extendicare in Haliburton received the first dose of the two-dose Moderna vaccine. The health unit was expecting the next delivery of vaccine on Feb. 1, but on Jan. 29 learned that shipment will be delayed until at least Feb. 5. Once more vaccine arrives, the health unit will continue with its plan to vaccinate residents of long-term care homes, including Hyland Crest and Highland Wood.

For further information on COVID-19, visit http://www.hkpr.on.ca.

County to hire consultant to garner feedback and draft shoreline bylaw

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The County of Haliburton will put out a request for proposals "to retain consulting services to lead the development of a draft shoreline preservation bylaw, including a review of the related science, an environmental scan, and public consultation."

That was the motion passed by county council during a special meeting dedicated to the draft shoreline bylaw on Jan. 27. The bylaw, which aims to protect lake health by maintaining natural shorelines, would restrict site alteration and the removal of vegetation within 30 metres of the high-water mark around water bodies. It has proven controversial in the community, particularly among some waterfront property owners, and some members of the local construction and landscaping industries. Councillors have received a deluge of emails regarding the draft bylaw in the past weeks, many of those emails copied by their senders to the newspaper.

An in-person public consultation process that had been planned for last summer was unable to proceed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with council conversations around the draft bylaw resuming in September.

The county had set up a digital public engagement framework that has been active on its website, for which a communications firm was retained to create materials, and which has garnered numerous responses.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt has repeatedly said she doesn't believe the communications process the county has had in place was comprehensive enough, and that there was widespread misunderstanding of some of the contents of the draft bylaw. Moffatt repeated those sentiments during the Jan. 27 meeting.

"We need to recalibrate this process," she said. "We're not giving the public what they're telling us it is they need."

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts and Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy have said they'd like to see the creation of a committee to guide the development of the bylaw, and Kennedy tabled a motion, seconded by Roberts, to postpone any further discussion regarding the draft bylaw until such a committee was struck.

"There are things in here that are very ambiguous ..." Kennedy said of the contents of the draft bylaw. "I'm throwing my hands up, I need some help on this. I'm not a planner, I'm not a fish biologist, I'm not a lawyer. I'm trying to make the best decisions and recommendations I can. I don't feel I have the tools."

Roberts said she's been approached by a number of people with relevant professional backgrounds expressing interest in sitting on some kind of committee to guide the creation of the bylaw.

As she had earlier in the month, Moffatt reiterated her opposition to that concept.

"I appreciate that we absolutely need to clarify this process," she said. "I absolutely do not support a committee of the public because I believe that we are so far down the vitriolic blame game that it would be impossible to adequately or usefully represent all interested parties without making it even worse, and in comparison, I think that a recalibration of a more robust and inclusive consultation process would do just as much."

"Unless we went to RFP, I said that last time, too," Moffatt continued "If we're going to bring in outside persons to take this over, I would only support it being an RFP."

That is ultimately the direction council took, with Kennedy rescinding his motion, and councillors voting to issue an RFP for a consultant. The change in process means that a virtual public meeting that had been scheduled for late February will be postponed.

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Sir Sam's eyeing Feb. 11 re–opening

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

It's been weeks since Sir Sam's Ski and Ride last opened, as it was forced to close because of the provincial lockdown measure to reduce the transmission of the novel coronavirus.

The family-run business that started more than 50 years ago plans on re-opening Feb.11, but this depends on what the province decides said Chris Bishop of Sir Sam's.

"The last time they gave us four days notice so the hope is that we will be open two weeks from today," he said on Thursday, Jan. 28. "But then there is chatter out there [about] 'Why would we open up Ontario for Family Day Weekend? You'll be crowded.' Well, the reality is we've limited the number of skiers that can come here. So there will be no more skiers on Family Day Sunday than there will be on the following weekend, which is not a long weekend."

Bishop said the Eagle Lake facility has a cap on how many lift tickets are purchased online to ensure there are no more than a thousand people at any one time. He adds this is 48 per cent less than its "busiest day."

If they open, this wouldn't be the only measure for Sir Sam's.

There would be a limit to the number of people permitted to enter the chalet, with food available for pickup only from a service window, while lift tickets will be available outside. Access to the chalet will be reserved only for use of the restrooms. Masks will be required while people use the lifts and wait in line. All visitors upon arriving to the property will be directed to enter and leave through one main entrance before using the facilities so they can be assisted and informed of COVID-19 protocols. Bishop adds personal information about visitors will be on file from the online purchase of lift tickets if contact tracing is required.

Bishop said Sir Sam's expects it will have lost out on approximately $500,000 in revenue from when Ontario's second lockdown began on Dec. 26 up to Feb. 11.

These circumstances are unprecedented, but there is hope is to recoup some of these losses if they can reopen and remain open into April by building a greater user base. However, how much will be earned will depend largely on weather conditions and if there will be restrictions to services when and if they return to operation.

"If we're only allowed to open and we can't do lessons and we can't do rental equipment, now we're just lift tickets so you're going to lose a lot of revenue there. You're already losing money from food service because we're going from cafeteria to outdoor pickup window and you're [cutting] your sales in half there and you're going to lose all your revenue ... It all depends on what it is we're allowed to do when we open," he said.

The forced closure has also affected staff.

The lockdown forced Sir Sam's into laying off around 90 individuals, with only six employees remaining on the books.

Getting back to operation will not just be good for staff, but includes giving season pass holders a recreation outlet according to Bishop.

He said season pass sales w ere up 40 per cent over previous years, which was due in large part to the travel restrictions that kept people in the province, and the cancellation of other outdoor and athletic pursuits such as organized minor hockey.

The projected losses to this point in the season keep mounting for the entire downhill snow resort industry, who are aware of the overall picture.

From a press release dated Jan. 22, "We know that getting COVID-19 case counts down is a key step in reopening ski hills this season," said Kevin Nichol, president of the Ontario Snow Resorts Association. "We encourage every Ontarian to stay home, so we can re-open soon. Although the monetary amounts have already exceeded $100 million dollars in lost revenue and expenditures to prepare for opening the slopes safely, we are most concerned with the livelihoods of over 10,000 workers."

Bishop admits to not having all the answers except he can't help compare Ontario to other provinces who have permitted ski resorts to operate such as Quebec, B.C. and Alberta.

"What's different for Ontario than it is for B.C., Alberta and Quebec. Quebec was in the red zone. Now they're allowing skiing," he said.

> ***"You can go cross-country skiing. You can go snowmobiling. You can go skating. You can go snowshoeing, but you can't go skiing.***
>
> — Chris Bishop

He believes there are people likely leaving the province now to satiate their alpine dreams.

"Are ski hills super spreaders? I think if they were we'd be hearing about it in B.C., Alberta and Quebec. Wouldn't you?" he said. "I don't know what the right answer is. All I can do is compare."

Bishop said Ontario resorts like his feel like the industry has been punished when it comes to the measures to reduce the transmission of the novel coronavirus, as other outdoor sports such as Nordic skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and outdoor skating have been allowed to continue.

"You can go cross-country skiing. You can go snowmobiling. You can go skating. You can go snowshoeing, but you can't go skiing. And if all our skiers are outdoors just like all the other activities and everyone is wearing a mask we just don't see a lot of logic in it that's all," he said.

Highland Storm hope for second session

Members of the Highland Storm executive met this week to discuss next steps for the second session of hockey.

Initially a decision was made back in December that if a lockdown was to continue anywhere past Feb. 15 the second session would be cancelled.

In a normal year our hockey season ends at the end of March however, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the OHF has released new information that they have extended the season up until May 31.

With this new information the executive has decided to hold off cancelling the second session for now and will revisit this decision as new information becomes available. The organization hopes to offer something to local hockey enthusiasts if time permits.

The Storm will also only be able to provide programming if our local public health unit is deemed to be an Orange, Yellow or Green Zone and it will be dependent on the organization'sability to secure ice within the county.

More information will be posted to the Highland Storm website at highlandstorm.org when it becomes available.

-Submitted by Highland Storm

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Need for greater broadband service dominates 2021 ROMA discussions

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A need for further investment in broadband internet services, improvements to long-term care and issues surrounding blue-green algae in local lakes were some of Haliburton County warden Liz Danielsen's key takeaways from last week's virtual Rural Ontario Municipalities Association [ROMA] conference.

The event was very well attended, Danielsen claimed, with around 1,100 participants from across Ontario. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the event took place exclusively on Zoom from Jan. 24 to 26.

While the changed format drastically impacted Danielsen's ability to network with representatives from other municipalities, she was a big fan of the way the different minister delegations were set up.

"I think they did a really good job of the transition from in-person to virtual. Everybody still had opportunities to meet with the ministers to have their delegations as usual. It was interesting – in a Zoom call you're seeing faces close up, so you got a better sense for how people are reacting to the information you're giving them," Danielsen stated. "It seemed, strangely enough, like there was more openness. More willingness to listen. It really was a different experience."

Danielsen juggled three different hats throughout the event – as county warden, deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, and as vice-chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus.

While most of the discussions Danielsen was involved in could, in some way, be tied to all three roles, there was one topic in particular that was a recurring theme throughout the event.

Broadband internet has long been an issue for rural communities across Ontario. This past November, Ontario Premier Doug Ford held a media event in Minden to announce the provincial government would be investing $1 billion over the next six years to improve internet and cell service in communities just like Haliburton.

One of the first initiatives to be funded, Danielsen says, is the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's cell gap project. She indicated work on that project, which centres on improvements to cell service in some of the province's most remote areas, will begin this spring.

Following further discussions at ROMA, she expects there to be some additional provincial funding announcements in the near future.

"There's a lot of discussion about the best direction to take – whether to support the big service providers, or smaller service providers. We're just interested in trying to get the best coverage in rural Ontario and Haliburton County," Danielsen said.

She added, "Broadband, and more specifically the necessity for broadband, was actually the theme of the conference overall… There was a lot of emphasis placed on working together with different levels of government and doing whatever we can to support the process to get broadband in place."

The improvements being talked about focus on the installation of fibre-optic lines in some rural hubs and boosts to cable and DSL services. Other more forward-thinking ideas, such as satellite delivery, may still be a few years out for local residents, Danielsen believes.

"The unfortunate part about these improvements is, no matter what we hear, it all takes time. We've heard presentations about satellite delivery, and other special projects that have gone ahead in small communities. But by the time you put out an RFP, and you go through that process and work begins, it seems like we're always looking at 2023 or beyond, and right now we just can't afford to wait that long," Danielsen said. "When you look at the problems that, for instance, the ones our kids are having with online schooling. It's just impossible right now for some families."

"I'm just not sure how we're going to fill that gap soon enough," Danielsen admitted.

There was a fruitful discussion with Merrilee Fullerton, Ontario's minister of long-term care, talking about the new systems and processes being installed in many facilities across eastern Ontario, Danielsen said, while she also held talks with environment minister Jeff Yurek about issues surrounding blue-green algae.

> *"We're just interested in trying to get the best coverage in rural Ontario and Haliburton County.*
>
> — Liz Danielsen

"Blue-green algae is a huge concern for us in Haliburton County, because there's still a lot of people who draw their water from our lakes. And if a lake has been contaminated, the water can be toxic," Danielsen said. "When someone spots, or reports a bloom, right now we have a process where someone will come in and test the water, but then there can be as much as a two-week delay for results. The big thing is, there seems to be some question about who is responsible for doing the notification [and reporting algae blooms], so we wanted to bring that to the minister's attention."

Yurek, Danielsen says, was "a bit taken aback" to hear it can take two weeks for test results to be returned to the community.

More municipal funding

Elsewhere, it was revealed that Haliburton County and its lower-tier municipalities would collectively receive about $645,000 in further infrastructure funding through the province's Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

Premier Doug Ford announced $200 million in new OCIF money for Ontario's rural municipalities during the ROMA conference.

The program works on a population-based formula. The County of Haliburton will receive nearly $285,000, Dysart et al nearly $160,000, Minden Hills just over $102,000 and Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East each $50,000.

"Investing in local infrastructure projects that help strengthen our communities and support Ontario's long-term economic recovery is important to help get shovels in the ground on important community projects," Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Ontario Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott said in a recent media release.

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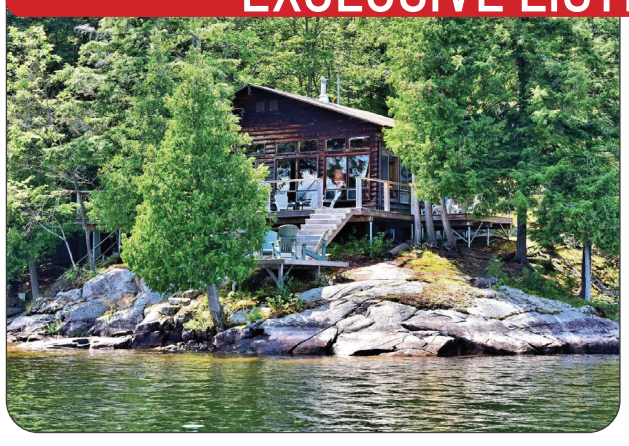

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‘If someone is saying there’s no coronavirus in Haliburton, it’s not accurate’: MOH

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held virtually Jan. 27.

Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, noted that Haliburton County is not unaffected by COVID-19 – at the time of the press conference, there were five current cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County being confirmed by the health unit, more than a dozen high-risk contacts, and the first hospitalization since one reported last April.

“So the numbers are small but I think the issue I’m trying to get across is that coronavirus is everywhere,” he told media. “There’s no part of our area that is unaffected, and there’s no part of our area in which you can throw precautions to the wind. It’s basically a fact of life, it’s something we’re living with now. If someone is saying there’s no coronavirus in Haliburton, it’s not accurate.”

Gemmill said the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit, which covers the regions of Haliburton County, Northumberland County and City of Kawartha Lakes, has been fortunate to see fewer numbers than hotspots in the province. At press time, the region had seen a total of 872 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus since the pandemic was declared last March.

“Luckily, with a smaller population and a less densely concentrated population, that’s an advantage, because those things I just mentioned are what can cause the amplification, the high intensity of people with other people, facilitates the spread of the virus,” said Gemmill. “Being more of a rural area, all through HKPR, that actually helps - that’s why we’re not in the same situation as the GTA, Windsor, Ottawa, and so on. My point is, the virus is still present everywhere and it can have significant complications like hospitalizations.”

Stay-at-home order in place at secondary residences, too

As was mentioned in the previous week’s board of health meeting, Gemmill reiterated his ask of people spending time at secondary residences in Haliburton County, and elsewhere in the HKPR region, to follow the stay-at-home orders in place.

“One of the things I want to say about Haliburton, a number of people have mentioned this to me so I thought it was important to mention it to you as well, we know that a lot of people in other areas are going to their recreational properties in the county, and there’s actually nothing in place to stop people from doing so, but I just want to take this opportunity to say, if people are doing this - we’re talking about people whose recreational or secondary residence is in HKPR, generally, or maybe in Haliburton specifically - please if you’re going to do this, do it the right way,” said Gemmill. “And that means, getting your supplies before you go, driving in your car, stay in your car, go straight to your property, and then when you get there, remember there is a stay-at-home order there. It applies just as much at a recreational property in HKPR as it does to a residence in Toronto or another part of the GTA. It’s just as if you were home. And so if you are staying at a secondary property that you own, the stay-at-home order is still in effect. Please do not put other people at risk when you travel, and when you travel home, do the same thing – straight home, please.”

Vaccinations underway, beginning in area long-term care homes

Last week, the health unit received the first 700 doses of the vaccine and began administering them to residents at long-term care homes including Pinecrest Nursing Home in Bobcaygeon, which was the site of an outbreak last spring that resulted in 29 deaths due to COVID-19.

“First of all it’s the right thing to do, because these are the most vulnerable people, as I mentioned last week, up to 40 per cent I think of long-term care homes were in outbreak, we’ve got to stop these outbreaks to keep these elderly people, vulnerable people protected,” said Gemmill. “That’s where we’ve started and that’s also what the province of Ontario has directed us to do.”

Gemmill noted he had heard a federal minister say that morning that by the end of September, everyone who wants a vaccine will have had it, and Gemmill said he hopes everyone can be vaccinated even sooner than that. He said the local health unit had submitted their plan to the Ministry of Health, and was making mass immunization a priority to ensure everyone who wants a vaccine can get it in the safest and most fair way possible, with long-term care residents and healthcare workers receiving the vaccination first.

“This vaccine is safe, the vaccine is effective, the clinical trials have been conducted on tens of thousands of people, millions since licensing have already received it, we’re not hearing that there are safety problems with this vaccine, that are generalized,” he said. “I really want to assure people, if that’s your worry, you needn’t worry. It was fast, it was remarkably fast, it was blisteringly fast to get a vaccine developed. but they were able to piggyback it on a technology that had been developed for other purposes, and it just worked.”

The vaccine is not yet licensed for children or adolescents under the age of 18, but Gemmill said vaccine manufacturers have begun trials for children.

“Clearly as parents we care about our children more than we care about ourselves,” he said. “I think people are going to be very very happy to have a vaccine for children when it’s licensed. For sure by this time next year. That will give parents as well a lot less worry about sending their kids to school - the risk [of kids at school] is not high as I mentioned last week, you’re not seeing outbreaks or serious situations coming in to schools - but parents will just feel better. And the other thing is, I can’t wait to immunize the teachers as well, because they’re going in to situations as well with lots and lots of young people, they are accepting exposure, and we need to look after them as well.”

Provincial numbers have decreased during lock-down

Last week, 21,478 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Ontario, down from a Jan. 11 peak of 30,632, two weeks into the province’s lockdown.

“When winter comes, this virus becomes more prevalent because it likes the wintertime and it spreads more easily, so it’s like somebody turned on the virus hose,” said Gemmill. “We’ve got our thumb over the end and we’re trying to keep that in and I think those restrictions, which is our thumb on the end of the hose, is doing something … But I certainly don’t want to live like this for the next five years. I can’t wait until we can get back to normal. So the purpose of these restrictions, keeping our thumb on the hose is to keep the numbers down, which … it’s working and doing … keeping people unaffected and get the vaccine into them before they have an exposure.”

Gemmill said it is essential to keep numbers down to protect the most number of people possible.

“It demonstrates the restrictions work, but the restrictions, they’ll only work as long as our thumb is on that hose, once you release it, we could be in big trouble again, so the more definitive intervention to protect everybody with this one is a safe and effective vaccine.”

Anti-lockdown protests ‘short-sighted’

When Gemmill was asked to comment on anti-lockdown protests occurring in front of Victoria Hall in Cobourg, he said that while he understood lockdowns are frustrating, he said what the protestors, many of them unmasked, were doing was “short-sighted,” and said “I just don’t think people are thinking this through.” He noted again his parents’ experience of living through the Second World War, and said that in critical times it was essential to pull together rather than apart.

“It’s all about keeping that thumb on the hose so we don’t have more outbreaks in long-term care, we don’t have more hospitalizations,” he said. “I’m really, I’m begging people who are really questioning the value of these measures, they’re not there to be mean and they’re not there to be ridiculous, they’re there for a very good purpose. And I would be the first one to say I can’t wait until we can lift them. It’s not going to be right away either, but I can’t wait until we can lift these restrictions so we can all get back to normal. I would really like everyone to do their part so we can keep this under control. now that we’ve got this vaccine, we’ve started already, it’s not going to be long. It’s going to be weeks, but it’s not going to be five years like it was with the pandemic of 1918, where people were still being exposed and dying from the Spanish flu.”

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points of view

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Introducing the Secret Samaritan

mike baker

Editorial

IT'S AMAZING how often a simple idea or a small gesture can snowball into something truly special.

We saw a great example of this right here in Haliburton just before the holidays, when eight-year-old Oliver Williams decided to donate a $5 bill he found on the ground to the local food bank. Within days his story had swept across the nation. Dozens of people were inspired to give back to their community.

Thousands upon thousands of dollars were given to many different charitable organizations. Haliburton's 4Cs food bank benefitted to the tune of $8,400. All of that from one boy's kind, selfless donation.

As I look to our community, there are many continuing to struggle with the effects and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have all had to live with it, and endure it for almost a year now. With no end in sight, there's one particular community I wanted to shine a light on – our local business owners.

While some businesses have thrived since the onset of the pandemic 11 months ago, even more have struggled. For the most part, the people who run your favourite downtown destinations aren't millionaires immune to the long-lasting effects of the pandemic. They have been forced to endure two provincial lockdowns, and adhere to a wide-range of safety measures that have severely impacted the way they do business.

These are members of our community, just like you and me, and they're struggling. Many are having issues making ends meet.

Not that you'd know it. Even if you stopped to talk to them, to ask them how they're really doing, you would likely be met with a great big smile and told they're getting on just fine. I know that's the response I've gotten time and again as I've done the rounds.

The truth is though, things are far from fine. There are some businesses that may not reopen once the current lockdown ends. And what a shame that would be.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of a community. Often, they are the first to support a worthwhile community endeavour. They're the sponsors of your kid's minor softball, or Timbits team. They're the community's greatest champions.

So now, in their time of need, it falls on us to support them. It falls on us to ensure that, when this pandemic is over, there's still a vibrant downtown core we can call our own.

With that in mind, Haliburton's media are joining together to launch the Secret Samaritan initiative. There are no catches, and there are no hidden agendas. We are simply encouraging those who have the means to do so, those who have a few dollars leftover in their weekly budget to spare a thought for their favourite business. The likelihood is that they need your help more than you know right now.

One local resident shared a story with me last week. On a recent visit to a downtown store, this individual discreetly handed an envelope with some cash in it to the business owner. It was this person's way of showing support during a difficult time. The business owner broke down into tears.

Again, to reiterate, it's amazing how the simplest idea and smallest gesture can make the biggest difference and turn into something truly special. We'd like to see Haliburton become a shining example of this throughout the remainder of this pandemic.

Haliburton helping Haliburton. That sure does have a nice ring to it.

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Frozen beauty by Darren Lum

A little bit of light in our lives

Tales from the great

lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

I AM ALL about the light these days. Noticing light everywhere and contemplating its effect on my overall state of being.

On the winter solstice, Dec. 21, we had eight hours 51 seconds of daylight. On Tuesday of this week, we will have nine hours, 57 seconds of daylight. By the summer solstice on June 22 we will have 15 hours, 22 seconds of daylight! The light is increasing every day and it makes me smile and even skip on occasion!

We walk our dog every day as sunset approaches and our walks are getting later. This past week the light from the full moon shone brightly for several nights. Whether you watched it from your living room window or while out on a walk, ski or snowshoe it filled the sky. The moon was stunning. It inspired so many beautiful photographs that popped up all over social media. The moon and it's light as art! I already have the next full "snow" moon marked on my calendar so I can be sure to pay attention to it. It happens on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Then there has been the light from the sun and the amazing blue skies that have occurred recently. I know I feel better just having the light shine into my house or around me as I go for a walk or ski. I drove past a village of ice fishing people the other day and thought how much they would be loving the sun as they patiently fished. I am always grateful for the sun - for its warmth, its light, its inspiration. Thank you sunlight!

And then there is light from all of our outdoor (and indoor) fires. I am pretty sure we are all having more outdoor campfires these days. They allow us to gather in small groups outside and stay connected. So many outdoor living rooms have been inspired by the campfire!

And finally there are cozy dinners by candle light. Whether you are alone or with your family, a candle is always good company. Quiet and bright.

All this light reminds us that we are each filled with light. We are surrounded by light and full of light. Rumi says "Don't you know that it is your light that lights the world."

In the practices of yoga and qigong one of the things we focus on is paying attention to the "space" we create inside of ourselves as we move. When we lift our arms up over our head we create more space for our spine in our body. When we do a gentle or more advanced backbend we make more space in our bodies for our heart and lungs. The ancients would also say that when we move we also make more space for light to enter the body. We can intentionally lighten up! It not only helps you, but the people around you feel your light.

So on those days, and we all have them, when we are feeling heavy or sad I hope you can find some light around you in nature and maybe do a little gentle movement to invite the light into the light of your soul. You can move sitting in a chair, standing by your window or outside on a walk. It all helps! All of our light make a difference!

points of view

Keeners

LAST SUNDAY, I was parked in a line-up behind several cars. Each of us were there for the same reason – we were waiting for the landfill to open.

If I had my way, I would have arrived much later – and when I say later, I mean by next Thursday or Friday. But Jenn woke up on that day with this crazy idea that "we" should do our weekly dump run early so "we" would have the whole day ahead of us to do other chores "we," apparently "promised" to do.

Frankly, I had no idea I was getting there early. I actually thought the landfill opened at 9 and I honestly believed I was arriving fashionably late when I pulled up at 9:55.

But, as I soon discovered, it was not even open. Worse still, there were five cars ahead of me.

So, as I sat there waiting in line, I phoned Jenn and asked her to look at the landfill hours. She confirmed it opened at 10.

steve galea

Loon Tales

"Great," I said, "Now everyone is going to think I am a keener."

When I was a kid, being a keener was one of the worst things you could be – only slightly better than being the teacher's pet, unless of course that pet happened to be a hamster or a rat.

Keeners were the ones who raised their hands at every question the teacher posed and made the rest of us look bad, especially since they had keenly studied or paid attention and knew all the answers. Worse yet, they always arrived early, keen to get on with the work.

Lately, I have wondered what happened to those keeners?

And, there in that line, I realized I had stumbled upon the answer.

Everyone ahead of me was obviously a keener.

But it was the first guy in line, that I wondered about most.

I won't lie to you, I was also a bit jealous. Then again, it's only natural for a person to be jealous of the first person in line, because the first people in line might be a lot of things, but mostly they're ahead of you.

The romantic in me also still believes that the first customer of the day must think what Columbus thought as he first gazed upon the shore of The New World – which is, "Man, I get to be the first person to dump my garbage in this place."

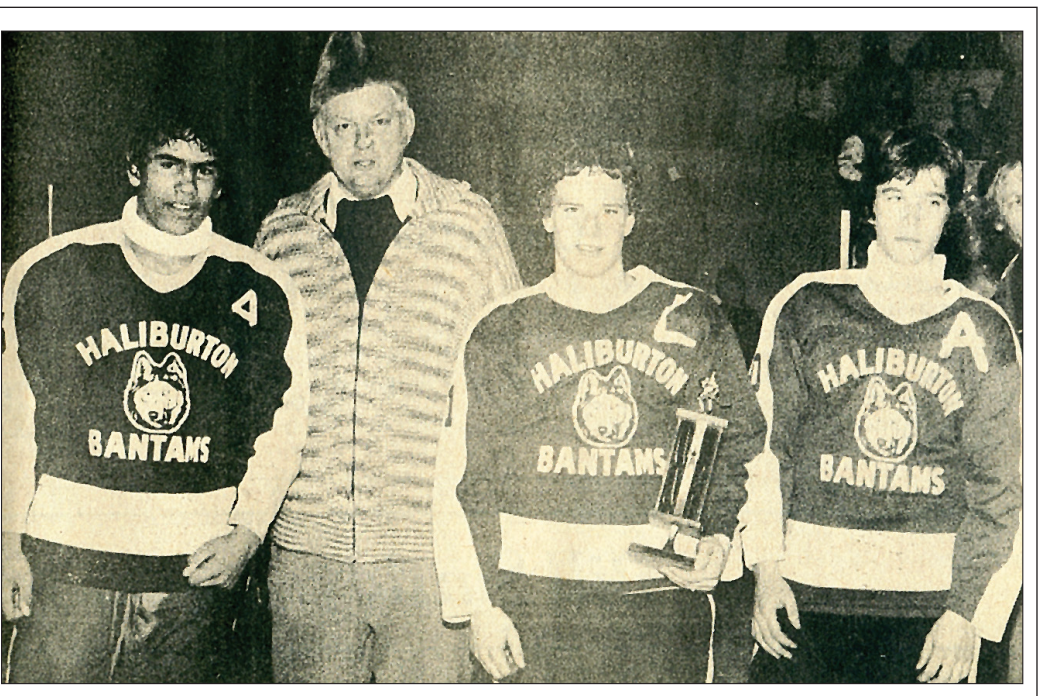
Still, I couldn't help but wonder if that man, the one who was first in line, had camped out overnight for the privilege – or, if not, how early is early enough to be first in line?

Did he have to treat the experience like buying tickets to a Springsteen concert? Or perhaps was he just unlucky enough to get there first, like that time when your friend who just learned to play guitar invited everyone to a singalong?

When all was said and done, I did understand why these people lined up. There was something nice about getting there early. The landfill attendants were happy and welcoming. The lineups inside were non-existent. You got it done quick and that felt pretty good.

So I learned two valuable lessons that day.

First, being a keener is not really that bad. Second, while there is no I in team, there is a definitely a "you" in "we." Ironically, this was something I was not so keen to learn.



pic of the past

Back in December of 1981 the Haliburton Bantams won the B consolation championship of the Hodgson Memorial Tournament. Receiving their trophy, presented by Glen Hodgson are Cory McKnight, left, Mike MacNaull and Chris Laporte.

letters to the editor

Long-term care workers deserve our respect and gratitude

To the Editor,

At a time when many of us are looking for positive ideas to celebrate, let's look to the great job the staff of long-term care homes in our area have done. Both of my parents were residents in LTC in the county. It is hard, in a 'communal setting' to keep infectious illnesses at bay. Residents would normally all eat together in a dining room. I don't know anyone who has 30 or more people to feed every day in their home. Groups of residents would have participated in activities together. Like us, much of this has been cancelled. Some PSW's and nurses worked in more than one facility, a conduit of carrying the virus. This had to stop. Our long-term care homes made changes in these areas and many, many more. Personal protective equipment is available and mandatory!

Unfortunately, there are many areas our local long-term care staff have no control over. These include, but are not limited to, understaffing in general (PSWs in particular), sick leave benefits for PSWs, expanded mandated annual inspections. As citizens we need to advocate on behalf of the residents and the staff. Why not start now, while the cracks in the system demonstrated by COVID-19, show us what work has to be done?

The staff of the long-term care homes in our area have been there for our moms, dads and grandparents since last March. They've worked hard and kept many of our vulnerable elderly safe. That has helped lessen our anxiety as a community. Let's give them the credit due at this time, as they continue their difficult work. If you know or see a staff member of long- term care give them a big thanks or a shout out. They deserve it!

Terry Hartwick,
On behalf of Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes Long-Term Care Coalition

Vaccination rollout plan should have been done months ago

To the Editor,

Thank you to Drs. Stephenson and Benoit for their insightful and timely letters in the January 26, 2021 Echo.

Dr. Stephenson's anger and outrage is most welcome. The world in general and our province in particular has known that there would come a day to roll out a vaccination strategy the day they recognized there was a pandemic. It would seem reasonable that planning would have begun immediately to determine the who, when and where of vaccine allocation so that when a vaccine was made available, the plan would be put in place. This is just basic strategic planning ... prioritizing the recipient groups, identifying who will administer the vaccines and where and then building a comprehensive flowchart. Right now, it looks a little like the people we see frantically running around the stores on Christmas Eve complaining that the holiday has just popped out of the ether.

Residents of Ontario's long-term care homes and their caregivers surely are at or near the top of the distribution list. It's been well over a month ... shameful that they haven't all been given the consideration and respect they so justly deserve.

Dr. Benoit is so correct ... the whole world [not just the U.S.] just got a new president and a permanent rest from four years of the most hateful behaviour and failed government that affects us all (like it or not). The civilized world exhaled on January 20 and then mercifully breathed a sigh of relief.

Sean Pennylegion
Haliburton

Only 21 per cent of businesses 'confident' in Ontario's economic outlook

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The president of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce wasn't surprised by the general negativity surrounding the release of the fifth annual Ontario Economic Report [OER] last week.

Providing the latest data on Ontario's economy and business confidence, the report states the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on many industries, most notably accommodation and food services, the arts, entertainment, recreation, and retail.

Considered one of the province's premiere tourism hubs, Haliburton has been hit especially hard by the pandemic. Many places who rely on business brought in by day-trippers and cottagers found life especially difficult in 2020. Two lockdowns and a wealth of other COVID-19 restrictions that specifically impacted businesses took their toll says Andrea Strano, president of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the lifeblood of our communities. Our small business members are the least confident in our province's economy, as they continue to face unprecedented liquidity constraints, increased costs, and reduced revenues," Strano said. "Many businesses in the Muskoka-Kawarthas region, which includes the Haliburton Highlands, have already had to shut their doors indefinitely."

The 2021 OER states that only 21 per cent of businesses in Ontario are confident in the province's economic outlook – a historic low since the organization began tracking data back in 2011.

While many businesses in the Haliburton area have struggled over the past year, others have thrived. The report states that employment data from 2020 shows there were far fewer job losses in the Muskoka-Kawarthas region than in any other region across Ontario. Overall employment was down in the local region by 0.9 per cent, whereas the provincial average hovered around 4.9 per cent.

Around 50 per cent of surveyed businesses from the Muskoka-Kawarthas region felt the community provided enough economic activity for their business to thrive, while 37 per cent did not feel they could thrive.

Looking ahead to 2021, the Muskoka-Kawarthas region is projected to have a lower unemployment rate of 7.3 per cent, compared to 9.2 per cent in 2020.

To view the full 2021 OER report, visit occ.ca/interactive-oer2021/.

Andrea Strano, president of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, says there are many local businesses that have been forced to shut their doors for good as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Second dose of vaccine won't arrive in Haliburton until at least Feb. 5.

from page 1

and Hyland Crest in Minden. The local health unit was expecting to receive a second shipment of the Moderna vaccine on Monday [Feb. 1], which would have enabled residents from Highland Wood and Hyland Crest to be inoculated, but it did not arrive.

Dr. Gemmill and his team were informed the second batch wouldn't arrive until at least this coming Friday [Feb. 5].

"It's unfortunate, but not unexpected," Dr. Gemmill said. "We know all areas of the province are experiencing delays, so all we can do is continue to plan our clinics and wait until we receive the vaccine that we need."

While we know that 42 Extendicare residents received their first shot of the Moderna vaccine last week, an undisclosed number of staff at the site may have been inoculated too, Dr. Gemmill noted.

He explained that once the vaccine has been transported to an individual clinic and thawed, it cannot be put back in the freezer, refrigerated, stored or transported to another facility. Since the vaccine must be used once opened, Dr. Gemmill said it made sense to use any leftover doses on health care workers at the care homes where vaccination clinics have been held.

He stressed that staff were only administered doses of the vaccine once all residents had been vaccinated, and only to ensure any additional doses weren't wasted.

"Our goal is to ensure that all of the residents of these facilities are vaccinated, but there may [be] times when we have vaccine doses left over after a clinic," Dr. Gemmill said. "In those cases, we are also vaccinating some of the health care workers in those facilities."

The *Echo* later learned that 10 members of Extendicare staff were given the vaccine.

While Dr. Gemmill expects a second batch will arrive in the HKPR region over the next week, he's unsure how many doses will be included. He also informed media that the local unit had been told not to expect a third delivery until at least Feb. 22.

Vaccination targets laid out by both the federal and provincial governments had to be altered in mid-January after Pfizer announced it would be slashing the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses it delivers to Canada by around 50 per cent. According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, Pfizer shipped around 20,000 fewer doses than the expected 208,650 in the week of Jan. 18, while no doses at all were received the week of Jan. 25. The federal agency expects to receive just 79,000 of the previously expected 208,650 doses this week.

The shortfall comes as Pfizer expands one of its vaccine production facilities in Belgium.

While only the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been approved for use by Health Canada, two other vaccines – the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine and the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine – are being reviewed by the federal agency.

Dr. Gemmill has previously expressed his belief that the AstraZeneca vaccine would be a "game changer" for Canada. This particular vaccine can be stored in fridges and can be fully administered in a single dose, whereas both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines need to be frozen and require two shots given several weeks apart.

Once more vaccine arrives locally, HKPR will continue with its plan to vaccinate residents of long-term care homes, high-risk retirement homes and a senior's housing facility in Alderville. After that, vaccination of the staff, essential caregivers and health care workers will take place.

Based on the provincial government's vaccine distribution plan, the second phase of localized inoculations will focus on older adults living in the community. This is expected to take place in the spring. Dr. Gemmill previously informed the *Echo* that the majority of Haliburton County would have to wait until the summer to receive the vaccine.

BIA In The Village: AGM is coming up

BIA in The Village

angelica ingram

THE TREES and the trails are covered in snow and winter is officially in full swing. While the start of this year is certainly looking very different some things remain the same, and that includes the fact that spring will be here before we know it and soon our main street will be filled with beautiful flowers.

Yes, you heard me right, I mentioned flowers. The BIA is already thinking about decorating our downtown this summer and plans are in full swing to have beautiful baskets adorn Highland Street. I know I always look forward to the time of year when the baskets are hung and the town just has a little bit of extra colour and sparkle to it.

While we were sad to hear that Frost Fest is not taking place this year, we hope to be involved with other COVID-19 friendly events down the road. You can stay up to date on all our news and events by following us on Facebook and Instagram, simply search Haliburton BIA.

February is a busy month for us as we host our Annual General Meeting and this year is no exception. While we can't meet in person this year, we hope you will still participate by attending our meeting on Zoom. The AGM is scheduled to take place on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m., so mark your calendars. If you are a member and are interested in participating please email: downtownhaliburton@mail.com. Information on how to attend will be sent to you. The earlier you RSVP the better! The AGM is an opportunity for you to hear what your local BIA is up to and to get involved, so we encourage all of our members to attend. We hope to "virtually" see you there.

Lastly, the month of January brought its own unique set of challenges for many of our downtown businesses as they navigated new government protocols and regulations in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to remind everyone that while many businesses aren't open to walk-in traffic, they remain "open for business" in other ways, whether it be for curbside pickup, local delivery, takeout and more. So if you are able, please support your downtown businesses. Check out their websites for more information on how you can support them safely. Or give them a call. Why not treat yourself to a take out meal from one of our dining establishments? Or perhaps pick up a gift certificate for yourself or a loved one to enjoy in the future. Whatever way you are able to show your support, our local businesses are extremely grateful.

Until next month stay safe, stay healthy and stay warm!

Highlands Summer Festival cancels 2021 season

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Another one bites the dust.

After being forced to cancel its 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers of the Highlands Summer Festival [HSF] have made the "difficult decision" to shutter the 2021 summer theatre season.

In a release to media over the weekend, HSF president Brian Kipping said the cancellation comes amid growing uncertainty about the COVID-19 restrictions that could still be in place by the time July and August roll around.

"It is with reluctance that we make this announcement," Kipping said. "It is not where we wanted to be following last season's cancellation. Our first concern, however, is for the safety of our patrons and staff."

Patrons who purchased season tickets ahead of the 2020 season and didn't request a refund will have their tickets honoured for the 2022 season, Kipping confirmed.

"We will respect that commitment when we are finally allowed to step back into the theatre and onto the stage," he said.

While the traditional theatre season will not go ahead, that does not mean HSF will be inactive over the coming months. Artistic director Scot Denton said the group was "exploring the possibility" of hosting its early stages program. Early stages is a four-week intensive theatre education initiative designed for young people aged ten to 14.

"The participants learn about all the facets involved in a theatrical production," Denton said.

There are also tentative plans to follow in the footsteps of other Ontario-based theatre groups and take their shows online.

"Following on the heels of our very popular 'Memories' video, we have a number of others in the works," Denton noted. "I can't show my hand just yet, but keep an eye on our website for new presentations."

Kipping meanwhile wanted to take a moment to thank those who continued to support HSF in 2020. While he didn't disclose a dollar amount, the HSF president said a number of donations received by members of the community helped to keep the theatre group afloat through what was a difficult year.

"Even though there have been no performances, we have ongoing expenses and these donations help to keep the Highlands Summer Festival alive and ready to go when conditions allow," Kipping said. "Thank you for your support."

For more information, visit www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

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GARDENS OF HALIBURTON

Haliburton welcomes Claire Ashley Cox, first baby of 2021

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The newest resident of Haliburton has arrived - Claire Ashley Cox was born on Jan. 26, making her the first Haliburton resident to be born this year under the care of the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft – but she was almost born on Jan. 30.

Claire's parents, Krista and Kenny, arrived at the Peterborough hospital for Krista's scheduled c-section on Jan. 26, and were greeted by a porter.

"She dropped us off on the wrong floor and left us, we were trying to find labour and delivery at 6:30 in the morning in Peterborough," laughed Krista, as she shared Claire's birth story with the *Echo*. The pair eventually found the nurse's station.

"They were all excited, we were about 20 minutes late," said Krista. Then, after both Krista and Kenny were gowned, and Krista's IV had started, the doctor arrived and, apologizing, said her due date suggested the surgery should take place at the 39th week – which would be on Saturday. Krista and Kenny were able to consult with hospital staff and their midwives, but ultimately the decision of which day Claire would arrive came down to them.

"Do we wait four more days?," asked Krista of the decision the couple had to make. "We've already got our son looked after, our dog looked after, our mindset – we're having a baby, and I'm already hooked up on the IV."

In the end, Kenny and Krista gave their consent for the surgery that day, and Claire arrived weighing seven pounds and 11 ounces at 8:49 a.m.

"Glad we did, because now she's the first baby in Haliburton!" Krista laughed. "It was funny, the other night when we were up the first night she was fussy at home, I thought, 'oh, if we had've waited until Saturday, I'd be sleeping right now.'"

Though later into the month than most New Year's babies, Krista said the acknowledgement that Claire is the first baby of the year in Haliburton for the midwives was special.

"It's exciting for us, it will be nice to put the clipping in her baby book," she said.

As for Claire, she's doing well, with chubby cheeks and a unique newborn look compared to her family members.

"She looks nothing like Kenny and I, compared to my son, but they change so fast," said Krista. "She's got dark hair, blue eyes. My son, he's bleach blonde, I was bleach blonde as a baby, my husband had blonde hair as a baby, but my mom said when I was born I had dark, dark hair, and then I lost it all and the blonde came in, so that's what we're hoping for her."

Claire Ashley Cox, born Jan. 26, is the first baby in Haliburton born in 2021 under the care of the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft. She is loved by parents Krista and Kenny Cox, and big brother Wesley./Submitted photo

As for two-and-a-half year old Wesley, now a big brother, he's also learning to celebrate his new baby sister.

"He tries to help," said Krista. "He was afraid of her at the beginning but now he's coming around. He cries when she cries. We're hoping he'll get over that soon. He covers his ears ... but sometimes you catch him, he doesn't have his ears covered."

Krista, a personal support worker at Highland Wood long-term care home, and Kenny, a forest firefighter for Ministry of Natural Resources Forestry and volunteer firefighter for Algonquin Highlands, met after a rodeo and have been living here for about five years.

Krista, who has three older brothers and said her mom didn't have another baby after she had a girl, suspected she might do the same now that she has Claire.

And why the name Claire?

"We just thought it was a pretty name," said Krista, adding that Ashley, Claire's middle name, is her maiden name. Wesley's middle name is John, a name shared by both Krista and Kenny's dads.

Baby Claire is being celebrated by grandparents Sue and John Ashley, who moved to Haliburton from Flamborough during Krista's first pregnancy, Wendy and Mike Tanner from Cochrane and John and Kate Cox from Timmins.

The week following Claire's birth has seen few visits, because of Ontario's stay-at-home order currently in place due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but that has given the new family time to be together.

"It was kind of nice and quiet," said Krista.

The first baby born in Haliburton County – Hunter Boesveld – was born in Minden on Jan. 8.

Stephanie Simon, registered midwife with the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft, said that while January is a light month this year – possibly due to the beginning of the pandemic – the rest of 2021 will "definitely make up for it." Babies expected to join the world in January are mostly from the Bancroft area, with many new additions from Minden. The first new resident in Highlands East is expected in late February.

Last year, the local midwives provided support to 98 clients and 99 babies – 53 from Haliburton County, with 26 being born at home, two in a hotel and 70 in hospital.

"Although 2021 is off to a slow start in terms of expected births, the majority of 2021 is above average for birth numbers," said Simon. "For comparison, 99 babies in 2020, whereas 2021 January to August is already above 90. And that's with January numbers being lower than expected."

The Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft has been encouraging residents to call as early as possible in pregnancy to avoid being put on a waiting list.

"We continue to do our best to provide care to those who call as we are cognizant that maternity care options are limited within the county," said Simon.

She said the past year was a busy one for the practice, with midwives joining and leaving the team, as well as the ever-changing days of pandemic.

"It's hard to believe that many of the families who are having babies now will never have seen their midwives faces without masks," said Simon. "And likewise, we haven't seen the full faces of some clients until they're in labour. We know that the changes haven't been easy for our clients and our community but we do want to thank everyone for the support. Especially thank you to all of the families who had to adjust to changing guidelines for appointments, ultrasounds and birth – for waiting in your car instead of the waiting room, adapting to phone appointments, arranging childcare for your visits, having limited access for hospital visitors and for taking the lack of laughing gas for labour in stride – don't worry, it's back. And now, more than ever, thank you for staying home."

For more information about the Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft, visit mshb.ca or call 705-457-9992.

County donates $25K to assist students with internet costs

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The County of Haliburton will contribute $25,000 to Point in Time's campaign to assist students in the county with internet costs in the online learning environment created by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

During a Jan. 13 online meeting, county councillors received a presentation from the social services agency, explaining that some 150 students in the county were unable to attend school virtually. They heard how the data requirements of Google Meet,the platform by which online takes place, can quickly consume a family's data package for the month.

The cost to provide one family with sufficient internet for a month is about $100, so with 150 families, that cost is $15,000 per month, or about $180,000 a year, Point in Time executive director Marg Cox told council. As part of its presentation, the agency asked the county to consider making a contribution.

While it's unusual for the county to make donations, during a Jan. 27 council meeting, councillors decided the county would contribute $25,000 for the cause.

"This is definitely outside of our normal scope of considerations, but it's obviously a big enough concern that most of us felt we should do something," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen.

"I think it's very important that whatever direction we choose, that we include in the resolution a bit of a position statement," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, "because that is outside of our normal scope of business, that the resolution include a comment or statement that we believe that education for youth in our community is a top priority during the pandemic. We have already, last year, been asked by various groups, including local businesses who were struggling look for financial incentives or opportunities. And we didn't want to weigh into that, because you open the floodgates, and as much as you'd like to give everything to everyone, we can't. That the donation was outside the scope of the county's usual business was included in the resolution.

Dysart et al Mayor Pat Kennedy suggested a contribution of $25,000.

"It would be five months, based on their hybrid model, and that would take it through the school year," Kennedy said.

Other members of council agreed with that figure.

"This is symbolic and a show of support and something that's not normal and clearly not our responsibility," said Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin, "but we're in this as a community."

"If we're stewards of Haliburton County, which I believe we are, then the stewardship of our future is in our youth," said Highlands East Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Assisted by the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations in promotion, as of Jan. 31, the campaign had raised more than $86,000.

Along with $25,000 from the county, Kinark Child and Family Services had contributed $30,000, the City of Kawartha Lakes (the social services provider for the county) $15,000, the Haliburton County Development Corporation $1,000, along with contributions from the Lions Club and private donations through a GoFundMe campaign.

Haliburton County Council!

The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to thank the Haliburton County Council for taking the initiative to redirect the proposed shoreline bylaw to an independent third party to review and oversee. We look forward to being part of the solution!

Lakefront Property Owners,

The Haliburton County Home Builders Association has spent the last few weeks bringing forward a few facts regarding the proposed Shoreline By-law that the County of Haliburton is attempting to implement. The goal of our media campaign is to bring awareness of the By-law to the waterfront property owners in the County.

The HCHBA is urging you to contact your municipal elected officials, Lake Association Executive as well as your M.P. and M.P.P. to voice your concerns and to ask questions. We also encourage you to visit the HCHBA website (www.hchba.ca/resources) where we have posted information relating to the proposed Shoreline Preservation By-law. We ask you to speak to your neighbours about their thoughts and we encourage you to write our local newspapers with your concerns. We at HCHBA hope the independent company that County Council engages to help shape the shoreline by-law will consider these points as they research and prepare a document for County Council:

The 30-metre setback from high-water mark is problematic. The high-water mark can be hard to identify and with the constant fluctuations within our local lakes it can be ever changing due to the erosion that these fluctuations cause. A more reasonable setback (5 metres) with high quality vegetation required for all lakefront properties would be a great start.

The process of understanding what projects require a permit and which ones do not needs to be clear, concise and easy for the homeowner or contractor to understand. The Site Alteration Plan as it is currently written is far too extensive and needs to be simplified; both for waterfront property owners and contactors.

The County of Haliburton needs to make a commitment to invest time and resources towards conducting their own independent research into other factors that could lead to the potential deterioration in the health of our local water bodies. This research needs to be a long term investment; not a program that runs for only a few years.

If you have any questions, we at the HCHBA recommend that you write, email, or call your municipal elected officials with your comments or concerns. The Draft Bylaw and Questions and Answers can be found on our website under 'Resources' at www.hchba.ca

Haliburton County
Home Builders Association
www.hchba.ca

#Building with the Environment in Mind

HHHS in the hole as end of fiscal year nears

MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton Highlands Health Service [HHHS] is currently operating with a deficit of around $442,000 as the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt.

HHHS board member David O'Brien, who sits on the organization's finance committee, informed the rest of the board last Thursday [Jan. 28] that around $258,000 of that total comes from lost revenues as a result of COVID-19 service closures, with an additional $184,000 related to additional staffing costs to cover overtime and recruitment drives during the pandemic.

While O'Brien painted something of a bleak picture, the local health service's finances are actually looking a lot better than they were a few short weeks ago.

"While this continues to be a challenging year with ongoing pressures due to the pandemic… we now have a more consistent cash flow with COVID-19 related expenses," O'Brien said. "We were six months behind [on our funding], but we have now received money that covers us until the end of September [in 2020]. That brings us to three months behind. It's still not great, but it's better than where we were."

O'Brien noted HHHS had also received money to cover lost revenues at its long-term care sites up to the end of 2020.

He anticipates the organization will still be in a deficit position by the end of the fiscal year, coming up on March 31. Still, O'Brien says he and the rest of the finance committee will advocate for more funding over the coming weeks.

"We're going to continue to work with our funding partners… to ensure we get the funding we feel we are missing with respect to revenue losses," O'Brien said.

Local disease activity

Dr. Steve Ferracuti, interim co-chief of staff at HHHS noted that while provincial numbers for COVID-19 have steadily decreased over the past week, we were still experiencing "some degree of local activity" in Haliburton.

He pointed to a recent report put together by Carolyn Plummer, president and CEO of HHHS, that sheds some light on the positivity rate of COVID-19 tests conducted in Haliburton County. Since the onset of the pandemic last March the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit has reported positive COVID-19 cases based on far-reaching geographical boundaries, identifying individuals as being from Haliburton County, Northumberland County or the City of Kawartha Lakes. Only residents whose permanent address is listed within those three regional municipalities is presently being reported by the HKPR unit.

This means that any visitor or temporary resident of the county – mainly cottagers whose primary home lies outside of our health region – who test positive for COVID-19 are reported in their home municipality.

In an attempt to provide more clear data, staff at Haliburton's assessment centre are now willing to provide a COVID-19 positivity rate for all people tested locally. For the period between Jan. 11 and Jan. 22, the positivity rate was 3.5 per cent, with an average of 169 tests being completed each week. During that period the HKPR unit reported a total of three new cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County.

Plummer said it was important to note that the positivity rate still may not represent all positive COVID-19 cases in our community, but only those who are identified through testing at the local assessment centre.

In her later report to the board Plummer noted the county had seen a total of 22 COVID-19 cases between Dec. 10 and Jan. 28 – which represents an 85 per cent increase in the total number of cases since the onset of the pandemic in March. Haliburton County has seen a total of 48 cases of COVID-19.

Ferracuti noted the hospital site in Haliburton opened up new bed space on Monday [Feb. 1] to house any patients redirected to the community from GTA-area hospitals experiencing surges in ER visits and admissions.

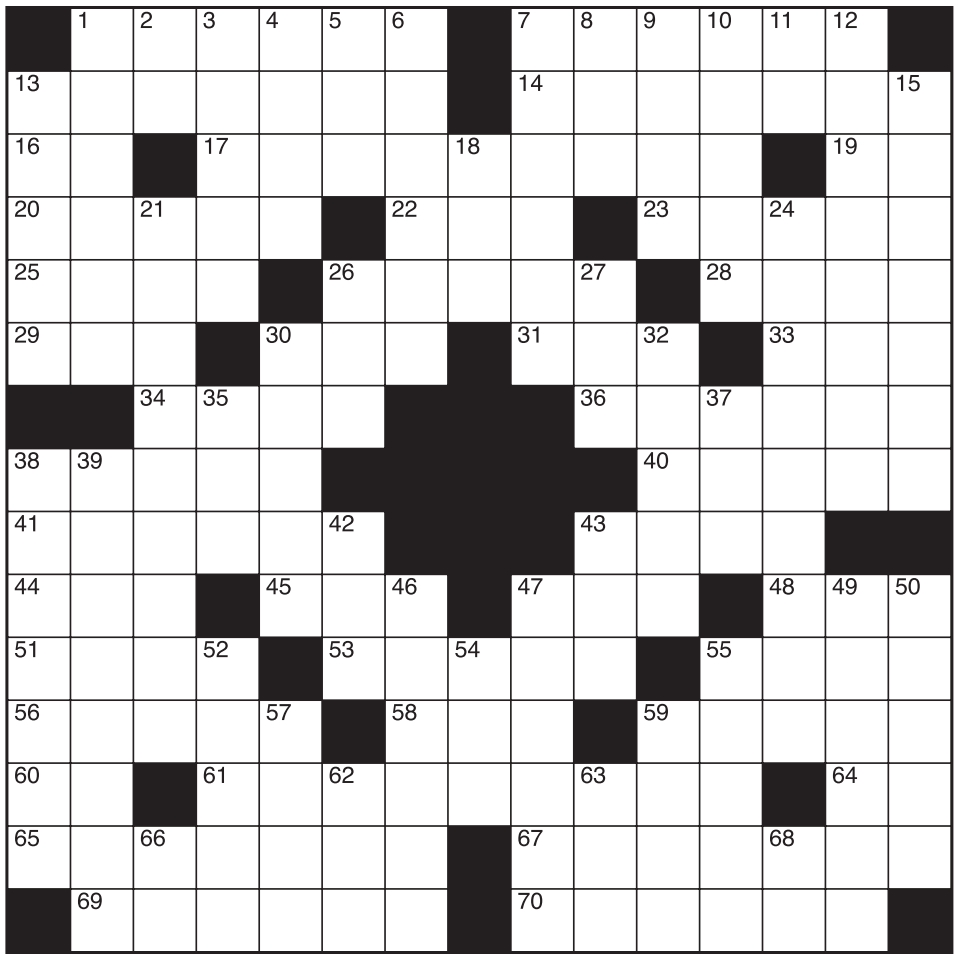
Successful Foundation campaign

The 'Believe in the Magic of Giving' campaign launched by the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation over the holidays helped to bring in $136,400 for the local health unit.

Lisa Tompkins, executive director of the foundation, said the money would help to pay for a portable digital x-ray machine for HHSS' Haliburton site.

"I want to acknowledge the over 830 donors who contributed… As always, we're so appreciative of the generosity shown by our community," Tompkins said.

Crossword brought to you by



CLUES ACROSS
1. Large dung beetle
7. Representation of a plan
13. In a fervid way
14. The Book of Psalms
16. Morning
17. Exactly the same
19. About
20. Brown and basmati are two
22. Swiss river
23. Philippine island
25. Expressions of surprise
26. An ant
28. Common Japanese surname
29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
30. Car mechanics group
31. A person's brother or sister
33. Ancient pharaoh
34. Quantitative fact
36. Vividly colored bird
38. Your home has one
40. Organic compound
41. Section at the end of a book
43. Flat tableland with steep edges
44. Criticize
45. Split pulses
47. Brief trend
48. Cool!
51. Purposes
53. Brews
55. Skin condition
56. Pops
58. American air travel company
59. Minute bug
60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. One who rides in your car
64. One of the Gospels
65. City in southern Spain
67. Inquisitive
69. Jean Paul __, author
70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN
1. An ape or monkey
2. Chemical element
3. Zodiac sign
4. Removes
5. Brew
6. Nickname
7. Architectural structures
8. Trigonometric function
9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
11. Mountain (abbr.)
12. Landscaping practice
13. Capacitance unit
15. Redirect
18. Hat for women
21. In a way, dressed down
24. Granny
26. Feed
27. Endpoint
30. Indian instrument
32. Bleated
35. Cablegram (abbr.)
37. Root mean square (abbr.)
38. Jellyfishes
39. Individual TV installments
42. Talk
43. More (Spanish)
46. Leaseholder
47. Monetary units
49. Hostility
50. Work stations
52. Linguistics giant
54. Female sheep
55. Calendar month
57. Seasoning
59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey
62. Single Lens Reflex
63. A way to remove
66. Virginia
68. Old English

Answers on page 14

New Cases Reported Today

2	19	2
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland

Total Confirmed Cases to Date *

50	452	370	872
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU

Note: *Total cases by County and for the Health Unit overall may increase or decrease from previously reported counts as cases may be reassigned to or from the HKPRDHU based on case investigation details and routine data cleaning.

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County*

County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	4	46	14	0	2	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	53	371	68	3	23	28	13
Northumberland	11	350	34	0	8	9	0

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU

All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	68	767	124 **	3	33	37	13

50 local cases of COVID-19 since pandemic began

Two new cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County have been reported today by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit. Currently, four cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County are not resolved, and there are 14 current high-risk contacts. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 46 cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County have been confirmed and resolved. For more information, visit http://www.hkpr.on.ca.

Jaguars hit the trails

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Grade 7/8 students snowshoe towards the forest behind the school on Friday, Jan. 29 in Haliburton. The students take to the woods with snowshoes most afternoons, as part of their physical education. Conditions in the Highlands this winter have been ideal for outdoor sports such as Nordic skiing and snowshowing./DARREN LUM Staff

Students charge up a hill while wearing masks. The outdoor masks are a new requirement since students returned to school Jan. 25.

Students snowshoe single file up an incline in the woods.

Embracing winter's bounty

J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School students Lyla DeGeer, left, Duncan Evans-Fockler, Ruby Andrews and Jordyn Braun show off their snow tossing skills and jumping ability during afternoon recess on Friday, Jan. 29 in Haliburton./DARREN LUM Staff

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THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

It takes a village

community news
west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754–2278

What do you do when the water system fails? First of all, you let family know. You get in touch with neighbours and a resourceful cousin for advice. It goes something like this: from son in B.C. to Perry Morrison, said cousin in Haliburton, Lyle Sawyer to Ed Muenzel, all of West Guilford and wait for all to look into the situation. While all of the above assess the well and pipeline there is no water in the house. Unfortunately for Kathleen her recovery from hip operation keeps her in hospital. Fortunately for me, her sister, I simply move in to her apartment while assessment and work are carried out. Not only do I have a well equipped place to stay, I have above the apartment a neighbour, Diane Nicks who invites me daily for her delicious dinners. In short, it's great to have neighbours who give freely and cheerfully of their time and expertise to correct the water problem. Now that it is solved my thanks goes out to them all continuously.

In the meantime, people live by the COVID-19 rules. Go to the store, the laundromat, the drug store, visit only the bubble of friends or family assigned. Thank goodness for the phone!

Haliburton County Council

is seeking members of the public to join the

Haliburton County Library Board

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. Applicants for this position must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County

You can find the detailed posting along with application instructions on our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

If you require assistance with the application process please contact Andrea Bull, Human Resources Manager at 705-286-1333 or at abull@county.haliburton.on.ca

The application process will close on February 15, 2021.

Culinary contributions needed for CFN cookbook

DARREN LUM
Staff Reporter

Bringing together the Highlands East community through food is at the foundation of a new cook book being led by the Central Food Network.

This cook book is expected to be a celebration of the community and will include a collection of recipes that reflect the Highlands East community and the people that live, work and play there.

For this to work CFN, whose mission statement is "to assist the community and partners share food resources and create opportunities to help those living in poverty," is asking for recipes from individuals, who are year-round and seasonal residents, businesses such as restaurants, and local groups such as lake associations, or recreational clubs.

Tina Jackson, executive director, Central Food Network said she hopes this initiative will help.

"Food is always the way to bring people together. Even when we physically can't be. It's one of those things that draws people together and in many respects it's an equalizer. We all need to eat. We all cook and we thought this was a good way to celebrate community and to give people something to do while they're safely being at home," she said. "If we can turn it into a fundraiser as well to be able to help purchase more food for the food bank to give out to people that's a win. A win-win."

Gail Gotter, a CFN volunteer for four year, is spearheading this effort.

She is accepting the recipes and said the idea came from another cook book she bought, which was started from friends of hers, who created the book as a fundraiser after she moved to the Highlands East area five years ago.

Up to five recipes will be used in the cook book from each individual, business or group, but more submissions will be accepted so Gotter can go through them. It's ideal if the recipe includes ingredients that can be acquired locally in the community.

What she liked a lot about the cook book that she is basing the CFN one on was how the recipes were approachable.

"As I'm looking through there's nothing out of the ordinary in a lot of the recipes. That's what I like about it and that's why I purchased it. I think it will be good for people up here. Especially when they see their name attached to the recipe and the information," she said. "I think it will make people feel really good."

The example cookbook is 100 pages, measuring 5' x 8', spiral-ringed bound (allows to be folded flat in half) with a glossy cover and back, which is water resistant, and includes 171 recipes, hints and information on related cooking aspects such as spices. She believes matching the recipe tally of 171 is a reasonable goal for the community with this CFN cook book, which is expected to be printed by Gateway Rasmussen, The Cookbook Printer.

Although there won't be colour pictures of what each recipe makes in the cook book, there will be colourful dividers for sections such as appetizers, soups, meatless mains in the cook book.

Jackson said a cover has not been decided, but could be an opportunity for local artists to submit ideas.

Gotter adds this recipe book could also be a reference tool for people, who have asked about what the community kitchen has cooked in the past so they can cook it at home.

She said she loves to volunteer because she is able and it's what everyone does in the community.

"The people here are just fabulous. If you ever need anything, no matter who they are or what's their background. People are there to help. If I can do something to help in my own little menial way that's what I enjoy doing," she said.

This is a first recipe book for the organization, but could spur on other similar efforts in the coming years, Jackson intimated.

"We'll see how it goes and certainly we're very excited about this. I'm hoping it will turn into something that we can do a second round of it," she said.

The cookbook is open to more than just individuals.

"We're definitely encouraging local businesses to submit recipes. If we can highlight local groups and businesses we'd love to be able to do that," she said.

Joanne Vanier, treasurer of the Wilberforce Agricultural Fair, said this provides multiple benefits from fundraising to giving a centralized focus for people.

She said submitting recipes is important on behalf of the fair and helps to keep their event active after a year out of the limelight.

"It just seemed like a great idea for the community. There's so many little groups right now that are struggling to get noticed. For instance, the Wilberforce Agricultural Fair. We didn't have a fair last year and we're just talking about what we possibly can do this year so putting in some recipes is a way to say, 'Hey, we're still here' and support the Food Network at the same time," she said.

Vanier, who is also long-time booster of geocaching in the area, said recipes will be coming on behalf of Tupper T. Turtle, who is the mascot of Geocaching Capital of Canada GeoTour.

Searching through Google for recipes is a ubiquitous action for most, but knowing the people who provided a recipe is important aspect to this endeavour.

"Having something that is submitted by people you know or organizations you know that's what makes this special," Vanier said. "You can't get that on Google."

Send recipes to recipes@centralfoodnetwork.org or use this form to submit (https://forms.gle/CouhE2i8XdGNes5q8). If emailing, be sure to include your name (and any business or group info, if applicable) as you want it to appear in the cookbook, and the recipe(s) either in the body of the email or attached as a Word document.

For more email recipes@centralfoodnetwork.org or call 705-448-2285.

DOWNTOWN HALIBURTON

The BIA is hosting it's Annual General Meeting on Zoom. The meeting will be held online on Thursday, February 11 at 7pm.

Please join us by emailing: downtownhaliburton@mail.com Information on how to attend will be sent to you.

Municipality of Dysart et al
Membership Recruitment
Cultural Resources Committee

The Dysart et al Cultural Resources Committee is seeking two public appointment to represent the "Media" and "Young Professionals" due to vacancies on the committee. If you are a resident of the Municipality of Dysart et al with connections to the business community, or, if you own a business in the Municipality, and are available to participate in regular meetings and special events, please submit an expression of interest outlining the skills and experience that you can bring to this unique group.

Expressions of interest will be received by email at: jiles@dysartetal.ca no later than Monday February 22nd, 2021. The Committee has bimonthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10:00am. Usually the meetings are held in the Dysart et al Council Chambers, currently being held virtually. Members should be comfortable using an online electronic agenda format. Information about the Committee, its purpose and responsibilities is available on the Municipal Cultural Planning webpage of the Dysart et al website at ***www.dysartetal.ca***. Historical agenda packages, relevant to this Committee, can also be accessed from this webpage.

Jeff Iles
Director of Planning and Development
E-mail: ***jiles@dysartetal.ca***

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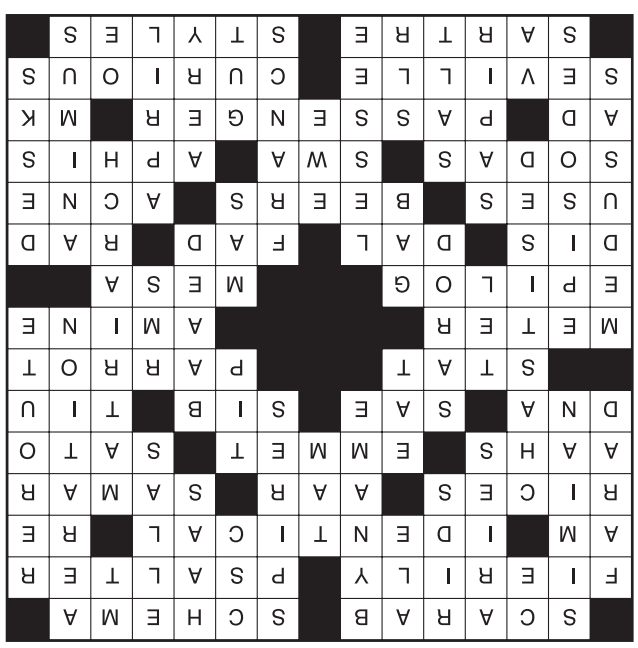

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- Marquis Spas
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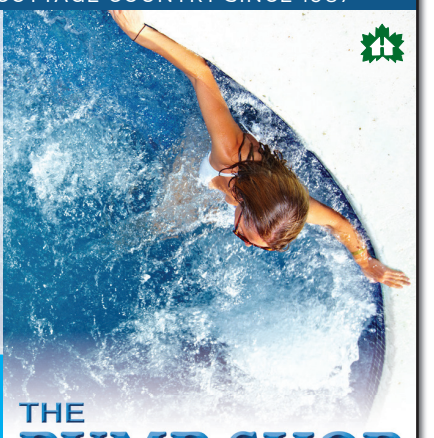

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Child Care Aide Position, Haliburton Wee Care is seeking a mature, reliable and energetic individual to work various hours, between 7:15 and 6, with children at our licensed child care centre. Candidate must have current and up to date Standard First Aid/ CPR Level C, be able to obtain a clear Vulnerable Sector Check from the OPP, and Medical Exam with up-to-date immunization record, including flu shot, from their Health Care Provider. Please send resume and cover letter with references to: ***haliburtonweecare@hotmail.com***

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY @ABBEY GARDENS

Sous Chef

We are currently seeking a Sous Chef to be an integral part of the on-site staff team in the Food Hub. This role will include a wide range of tasks in our commercial kitchen including; working at the lunch counter, preparing food, baking, canning soups, making preserves, providing customer service, catering, etc.

This is a full time, year round position, working directly with the Chef.

For full job description please go to https://abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs.

Applications can be submitted via email to ***heather@abbeygardens.ca***

Deadline for applications: Feb.15, 2021

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation
is looking for a
Permanent Part-time Maintenance Person.
Must be available for on call and weekends. Applications due by **February 12, 2021.**
For more information and to submit your resume including referrals send to
HCHC,
1 Victoria St.,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
or email to
manager@haliburtonhousing.com

Camp White Pine
is seeking Cleaning and Maintenance Staff.
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Email ***info@campwhitepine.com***
or call 416-322-6250

HALIBURTON TIMBER MART
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is accepting applications for the following position

YARD ATTENDANT / DRIVER POSITION

We require an energetic individual to assist in delivery of building supplies, customer service and material handling.

Applicants must possess strong communication skills and knowledge of building supplies.

The ideal candidate will have a class D drivers licence.

If you are organized and possess the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment, please forward your resume by email

admin@haliburtonlumber.com

Only successful applicants will be contacted

SINCE 1918 ONONDAGA CAMP

Cleaning Services
Onondaga Camp, Minden, seeks 5 Staff SEASONAL (2021)
Starting at $14.00/hr

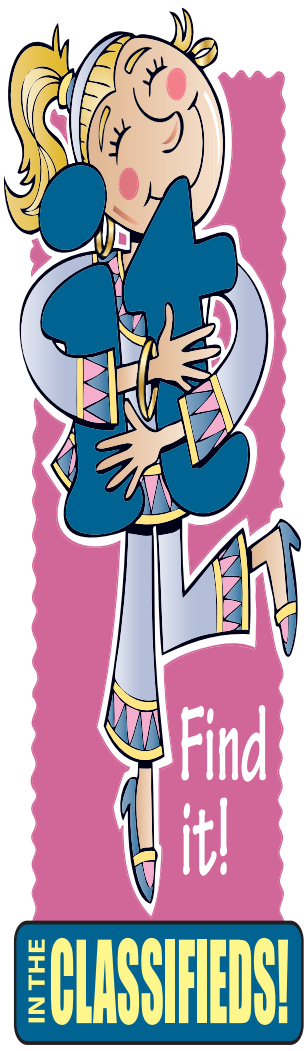
We are looking for Cleaners to care for our facilities by providing a high standard of cleaning and light maintenance duties. The goal is to keep all facilities in a clean and orderly condition. Responsibilities are to clean and stock designated facility areas (disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning etc.), carry out heavy cleansing tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, stock and maintain supply rooms, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, knowledge of cleaning chemicals and supplies, familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets.

To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19.

Up to 40 hour work week Spring and Fall.
Up to 48 hour work week Summer (6 days).
Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept)
NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at matt@onondagacamp.com. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.



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ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSPERSON

We require an energetic individual who can contribute to our Home & Cottage design department. The ideal candidate will have excellent verbal communication skills, knowledge in construction and building supplies, be proficient in AutoCAD and an organized multi-tasker.

If you are motivated and enthusiastic, please forward your resume to:

admin@haliburtonlumber.com

or mail to P.O. Box 534,
Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0

Only Successful applicants will be contacted

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Deadline Friday at 4 pm

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
youth wellness hubs ONTARIO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub
Mental Health and Addictions Clinician (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the YWH Manager, working within the context of a multidisciplinary team, the Clinician will provide therapeutic interventions and addiction/harm reduction supports to youth, ages 12-25, dealing with addictions and substance use, based on evidenced-based practices. Using a client-centered approach, the Clinician will conduct mental health assessments and provide therapeutic supports and/or interventions to youth, including but not limited to solution-focused narrative therapy, cognitive-behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, and motivational interviewing. This can include a whole spectrum of supports and services from referrals with the hub, to external providers, and involve direct support and treatment from harm reduction to withdrawal support and relapse prevention services. Bachelor/Masters of Social Work, Psychology, or related degree, with a postgraduate certificate in Addictions and Mental Health, or an equivalent combination of work experience and education. Current Certificate of Registration with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW); or current registration with The Collage of Psychotherapy. Minimum 2 years' experience working in a related position preferred, ideally in a community-based setting. Valid First Aid & CPR certificate or willingness to obtain.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

Please visit ***www.pointintime.ca*** for a detailed job description.
Send resume by February 12, 2021 to:
Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager ***marys@pointintime.ca***
or Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
youth wellness hubs ONTARIO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub
Peer Support Worker (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the Youth Wellness Hub Manager and alongside a coordinated service team, the Peer Support Worker will provide support to youth who access services and recreation at the Haliburton County Youth Hub. They will support and assist in creating a safe and accepting environment for youth (12-25) with a special emphasis on the LGBTQ, Indigenous youth and other marginalized community youth. Supports and services provided at the Youth Hub include, but are not limited to, mental health, addictions, employment, housing, primary care and outreach. Good communication/interpersonal skills, education or volunteer/work experience in social services or related field, knowledge of anti-oppression and inclusion including knowledge of supporting LGBTQ+ youth and creating positive spaces, knowledge of youth engagement principles and practice is an asset, knowledge of Haliburton community, community resources and the Youth Hub is an asset.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

Please visit ***www.pointintime.ca*** for a detailed job description.
Send resume by February 12, 2021 to:
Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager ***marys@pointintime.ca***
or Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
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HALIBURTON COUNTY

Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub
Care Coordinator (Full Time / Permanent)

Under the direction of the YWH Manager, working within the context of a multidisciplinary team, the Care Coordinator will, in collaboration with youth and their families, assess care needs, determine eligibility for services, and develop individual care and service plans and is passionate about making sure every stone is overturned in order to help youth get the service and supports they require. Membership, in good standing, with the applicable regulatory body: College of Psychotherapists of Ontario, Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. 2+ years of recent experience in community health or a related field. Knowledge of the health care delivery system and community resources.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

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or Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
P.O. Box 1306, 69 Eastern Avenue, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
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HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES
Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

Haliburton Highlands Health Services
has a need for Temporary Full-Time
and Temporary Part-Time staff
for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The **Registered Nurse** earns $33.56 /hr - $48.05/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. Recent experience is preferred.

Registered Practical Nurses earn $30.58 - $31.17/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a clients condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earns $22.25- $24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:

The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities,
The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or
The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and
Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

The **Caregiver Support Aide** earns $18.50/hr. S/he provides support to our PSW's in relation to specific activities of resident and patient daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. Assists our PSW's with dressing, meal service and nourishment, assists with personal grooming, changing linens etc. Registered graduate of grade 12 or equivalent maturity and experience, with a willingness to register in a PSW certificate program and complete it within three years.

Observers/screeners earn $14.50/hr and work on an as needed basis in 4 hour, 8 hour, or 12 hour shifts depending on Patient/Resident needs. The Observer is an unregulated health care provider who is primarily responsibility for the close observation of patients whose behavior poses a risk to his/her safety or the safety of others. The Patients/Residents you are observing are often elderly people who are living with dementia or other conditions that impact their memory and judgment. As a Screener, you act as a greeter and screener at facility entrances in Minden and Haliburton locations, to ensure anyone who enters is well. Minimum Grade 11, or equivalent, from the Ministry of Education (Ontario) with a demonstrated working knowledge of spoken and written English and experience working in a health care setting, security, related social service, or educational field will be an asset.

There may be many who have worked related fields and training on site will provide the basics you require for a temporary role.

Interested: Submit you application and resume to:
Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca
Fax: 705-457-4609

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We seem to see in the soft dim light,
The faces we loved the best,
And think of them when the sun's last ray,
Goes down in the far off west.

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Marjorie Hamilton (nee Canam)

Passed away peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at the age of 91.

Beloved wife of George Hamilton for 70 years. Dear mother of Rod (Marion), Marnie (the late Steve) Bowcott, and Don (Kathy). Loving grandmother of 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Predeceased by her brother and sister-in-law Mark and Anna Canam.

Marjorie attended nursing school in Fredericton, N.B., graduating in1950, then married George and moved to Gogama, Ontario and began dedicating to her life to her family, as well as volunteering as a nurse. The family would like to thank Dr. Norman Bottum and all the staff at Extendicare for all their support and compassionate care.

In keeping with Marjorie's wishes, cremation has taken place and private family interment will take place at St. Stephen's Cemetery, Boshkung at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

650 OBITUARIES

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

POSTCARDS OF THE PAST
New book is a visual stroll through the Highlands' history.

URLA AT 100
With the smile and spirit that propelled her through her life, Urla Henwood turns 100

ABANDONED MINES
As Highlands East is discovering, old mine sites can be a modern-day headache

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
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email: echo@halhinet.on.ca
Tuesday, March 4, 2003
Vol. 120 No .12
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Shoreline protection earns kudos for Dysart OP

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

Changes in Dysart et al's new draft official plan are most noticeable for wetlands, shoreline protection and new commercial development.

Reeve Murray Fearrey feels the municipality is now on the leading edge of shoreline/wetland protection. The new plan changes the old designations on lakefronts from shoreline, residential and conservation lands to a new waterfront designation, with the exception of some areas labelled as hazardous.

At a recent public meeting, Tony Usher, Dysart's planning consultant, said all new development within a waterfront designation must follow a 30-metre setback on cold water lakes or 20 meters on other lakes. No new lots will be allowed on identified highly sensitive trout lakes. He added there will be no new golf courses or ski hills in a waterfront designation either.

Usher says the municipality is committed to working with lake associations which are doing lake capacity studies and the plan can be amended to accommodate those findings. Similarly, Usher says they have created a temporary policy that requires development near sensitive wetlands to first undergo a natural heritage evaluation This will ensure there is no negative impact. The plan will be amended following completion of a study of significant wetlands.

Heather Ross, chair of the new Environment Haliburton group, expressed the group's pleasure over the environmental protection policies in the plan.

"We're really, really pleased. I think it's very positive. We would like to see strict rules for implementation so we'll know what to expect 20 years from now," said Ross.

Fearrey acknowledged at the beginning of the meeting that many of the approximately 50 people in attendance were there because of plans to change large sections of County Road 121 to a commercial designation. In the land next to the lake, it's designated residential; across the road it's commercial. The residential designation begins at

See **Neighbours** page 4

DARREN LUM/Echo

Winterfest fun
A jubilant young girl tests out the tobogganing hill before the other children are able to enjoy it at the annual Winterfest in Haliburton's Head Lake Park this past weekend. More photos page 8.

Snowman held for ransom - a dozen doughnuts or it melts

DARREN LUM
Staff Reporter

There's nothing safe in a world when your snowman gets abducted from your front lawn.

At least that's what Jamie and Dana McMahon discovered when they awoke one morning to see one of their 'family' missing.

With six full-size snowpeople — three couples — and seven little ones, the McMahons had a family, complete with four generations, lining the front of the property. They face Hwy. 118, a few kilometres before West Guilford's turn-off, giving people a warm feeling and a glowing smile as they drive by.

It just so happened someone wanted more than that.

On the fateful morning they discovered the snowman was missing, Dana recalls Jamie saying, "He must have fell over or jumped off the cliff."

Gord Forbes, her father, went to check the mail box by the road and he returned with a ransom letter. It demanded a dozen doughnuts in return for the abducted snowman. It was signed: The Snowman Bandits.

"We knew right away who it was though," Dana said, laughing.

Chiming infrom across the room, Gord says "Nobody would be crazy enough to steal a snowman."

Dana's co-workers at Camp Medeba apparently have a pen-

See **Kidnappers** page 9

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The Haliburton Real Estate Team

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CHANDLER POINT
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